

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
3 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO GLEAN
4 UNHARVESTED FARM PRODUCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF FOOD
5 INSECURITY.

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7 WHEREAS, according to feeding America's 2019 map the
8 meal gap study, approximately three hundred twenty thousand
9 people in New Mexico are food insecure and more than
10 one-third of those who are food insecure are children; and

11 WHEREAS, a 2010 missing meals study found that
12 low-income people in New Mexico miss one hundred seventeen
13 million one hundred forty thousand eight hundred seventy
14 meals every year; and

15 WHEREAS, people suffering food insecurity often make
16 trade-offs between important basic needs, such as paying for
17 housing or medical bills and purchasing nutritionally
18 adequate foods; and

19 WHEREAS, over fifty percent of households seeking
20 emergency food assistance include at least one employed
21 adult; and

22 WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that
23 thirty percent to forty percent of the food supply is wasted
24 each year; and

25 WHEREAS, food waste worldwide is a major contributor to

1 the emission of greenhouse gases, approximating the emissions
2 of thirty-seven million passenger vehicles on the road; and

3 WHEREAS, food waste occurs at every step of the food
4 production process, from agricultural production to
5 consumption; and

6 WHEREAS, produce that does not meet the aesthetic
7 standards for commercial sale is often left unharvested to
8 save the expense and labor involved in bringing the produce
9 to market; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately twenty billion pounds of fruits
11 and vegetables in the United States are discarded on farms or
12 left in fields and plowed under; and

13 WHEREAS, unharvested farm produce could be a source of
14 food to address food insecurity in New Mexico;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of
17 agriculture be requested to convene a working group to
18 develop recommendations to glean unharvested farm produce to
19 address issues of food insecurity; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
21 composed of farmers and representatives of the New Mexico
22 department of agriculture, the department of environment, the
23 workforce solutions department, the human services department
24 and relevant non-governmental organizations, including the
25 New Mexico association of food banks, anti-hunger advocacy

1 organizations, labor organizations and agriculture-focused
2 groups, such as 4-H, the New Mexico farmers' marketing
3 association and the New Mexico food and agriculture policy
4 council; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
6 requested to develop recommendations on how best to
7 coordinate with farmers to glean unharvested produce and
8 efficiently distribute the produce in order to effectively
9 address food insecurity; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
11 requested to report its recommendations to the appropriate
12 interim legislative committee by November 1, 2020; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
15 agriculture, the secretary of workforce solutions, the
16 secretary of human services and the co-chairs of the
17 New Mexico legislative council.

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